

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A multiport network device, connected to a host, includes an address table, address register, address table access port, input data holding register, and table access logic. The address table stores multiple entries. The address register is accessible by the host and stores an address of an entry in the address table. The address table access port is also accessible by the host and stores the contents of an entry in the address table. The input data holding register stores data for a new entry to be created in the address table or an existing entry to be modified or deleted from the address table. The table access logic receives a command from the host to read one of the entries in the address table, locates the entry in the address table in response to the command, stores an address of the entry in the address register for access by the host, and stores the contents of the one entry in the address table access port for access by the host. The table access logic also receives a modify or delete table entry command from the host and locates the entry in the address table to modify or delete using the data from the input data holding register. The table access logic overwrites the entry with the data from the input data holding register when the received command is the modify table entry command and deletes the entry from the address table when the command is the delete table entry command.